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The Parley in Chicago On Religion and Race

By WILLIAM L. PATTERSON

AN APPEAL to the conscience of the American people to rally in a united front of action against the menace of American racism — jimcrow, segregation and racial inspired injustice came out of the Jan. 14-17 National Conference on Religion and Race in Chicago.

The conference was unique in many respects and worthy of unusual study. Individual religious bodies have met in our country to discuss "The Negro Question" on several occasions. Nothing came of it. This was an effort to create a new collective, to discuss the question and to do more, to help put an end to the "Question." In this factor there is obviously enormous possibilities to correct whatever weaknesses were found or were inherent in other conferences.

The program that came after deep and sharp discussion, dealt with:

1. The responsibility of the Church individually and collectively for the status of Negro citizens, and the consequent deterioration of national morality and integrity and the weakening of the prestige of the Church.

2. The responsibility of the Church to aid all seeking equality of rights and opportunities in the U.S.

It approached that aid in terms of ideology, politics, economics and especially morality.

It appealed to the conscience of the American people to help save our democracy and to make it real.

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HOW FAR this Conference will go in the implementation of its splendid program only history will answer but youth, women, men, labor, Negro organizations are challenged by what it did and said and implementation can be inspired from many sources.

The Chairman of the Conference was the Rev. Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, President of Morehouse College and an internationally known fighter for Civil Rights. The Vice-Chairman, The Right Rev. Bishop Germanos of Synadon Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America. Others prominent in the Conference were the most Rev. Paul J. Hallinan, Archbishop of Atlanta Georgia, Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman of St. Louis, Bishop B. Julian Smith, Presiding Bishop First Episcopal District Christian Methodist Episcopal Churcr. Dr. Franklin H. Littell, the Very Rev. Msgr. John J. Egan who spoke on: The Responsibility of Church and Synagogue as Institutions in the community and a veritable host of dignitaries and prominent men and women.

A panelist, William Stringfellow, a New York Attorney long active in progressive affairs said that it was: "Too little, too late, too lily white." He said that the church had been absent from the scene of struggle and that as a consequence its statement of .....

THE WORKER, official publication of the Communist Party, thinks highly of the NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RELEGION AND RACE... Note the significant contribution made to this project by Dr. Franklin H. Littell.....

Franklin H. Littell is featured on NET-TV programs nationwide and lectures constantly. He forms such organizations as IAD (Institute for American Democracy, Inc.,)a tax-exempt organization which he now heads as Chairman. At the same time he endorses organizations which have been cited by the Internal Security Sub-committee and the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Bulletins such as the "Guide to Subversive Organizations & Publications" the Committee Reports of the House Un-American Activities Committee and the Reports of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Internal Security Sub-Committee, may be obtained from the United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20401

☆ **METHODIST FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION**

1. "With an eye to religious groups, the Communists have formed religious fronts such as the Methodist Federation for Social Action * * *."

(Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Handbook for Americans, S. Doc. 117, April 23, 1956, p. 91.

☆☆ Franklin H. Littell (McCormick Theological Seminary, University of Michigan, Boston University, Bethel College, Methodist clergyman)

(1) Methodist Federation for Social Action -- nominee for executive committee -- 1947 ballot, page 1

(2) Methodist Federation for Social Action -- nominee for national committee -- Social Questions Bulletin, February-March 1949, page 48

(3) Methodist Federation for Social Service -- writer for Social Questions Bulletin -- issues of February 1945, March 1945, April 1945

(4) Methodist Federation for Social Service -- nominee for executive committee -- 1945 ballot, page 1

(5) Methodist Federation for Social Service -- member of executive committee -- letterhead, April 12, 1946

(6) Rosenberg Clemency Appeal -- signer -- Daily Worker, January 13, 1953, page 2